

## OBLIVION

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Tom Cruise does look good for his age. But in *Oblivion*, that just isn't good enough to make this one worth your time – unless you are a diehard Cruise fan. I went on the appeal that Morgan Freeman was in it, but his role wasn't big enough to keep my interest. Although the premise had potential, the execution was lacking in both imagination and humor.

We are to believe that the earth has been destroyed. Okay, I was along for the ride. But then, as you looked at the sterile atmosphere of the setting and the long time it took to have any real action, by the time the payoff came, you could see it coming a lifetime away. When I can say the line before the actor, I am not having a good time. I like to be surprised – or at least entertained. This movie tried to be everything to everyone and missed every time. You would be better off renting the *Matrix* trilogy or going back to *2001: A Space Odyssey* to see how this might have been so much more —and so much better.

While the story tries hard to get you to care about Cruise and his lives, by the end of it all, you just feel like two hours of your life has gone into *Oblivion* or maybe just into the black hole of bad movie-making. If you want to get into the psychology of it, there is a parallel process regarding creation both natural and artificial. Who is truly in charge of humanity? And if left to machines to figure it out, what becomes of the soul? If you can follow that, you might believe the hype that the commercials try to convince you of.

I have seen lots of B movies that were well-made and well-delivered but, in this case, the end did not justify the means to make a point out of the pointless. Morgan Freeman is always good, and I can't blame people for taking on paying jobs in these recessive times. But please, gentlemen, as a fan many years standing, who remembers all the wonderful work each of you has done, put up a disclaimer next time that says, "We needed to pay some bills. Sorry". I will surely understand. I expect better of you, especially in collaboration.

*Oblivion* might be worth seeing at the dollar movie theaters in the afternoon if your air conditioning is out and you need a nap. You won't be missing a thing. Sorry Tom and Morgan, better luck next time.

I give *Oblivion* one little spaceship. Board or, rather, face being bored at your own risk.



